

IN THE DRAWINGS

Applicants enclose Replacement Sheets for Fig. 15. Please add the caption "Prior Art" to Fig. 15.

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are pending in the application. Applicants amend claim 9 to correct a minor error and amend 10 to independent form. No new matter has been added.

The Examiner objected to Fig. 15 in the drawings under MPEP § 608.02(g) for failing to designate that which is old as “Prior Art.” Applicants enclose a replacement sheet for Fig. 15 with the designation “Prior Art.” Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the objection.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the Examiner’s finding that claims 1-12 contain allowable subject matter. Applicants amend claims 9 and 10 to address the Examiner’s objection of claims 9 and 11, and the Examiner’s § 112, ¶ 2 rejection of claims 10-11 discussed below. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner allow claims 1-12. Applicants respectfully submit that the provided reasons for allowability include only the Examiner’s interpretation, which should in no way limit the scope of the allowable claims.

The Examiner objected to claims 9 and 11 for apparent informalities. Applicants amend claim 9 in accordance with the Examiner’s suggestion. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 11 depends from claim 10, which provides antecedent basis for the phrase that the Examiner objected to. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the objections.

Claims 10-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention.

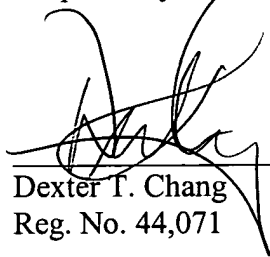
In particular, the Examiner objected to claim 10 for reciting a “node device” while depending from claim 1, which recites a “redundant changeover apparatus.” Applicants amend claim 10 to independent form incorporating all features recited in claim 1, and respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the § 112, ¶ 2 rejection.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's implicit finding that the additional references made of record, but not applied, do not render the claims of the present application unpatentable, whether these references are considered alone or in combination with others.

In view of the remarks set forth above, this application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,



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